

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet
held on 11 April 2019**

Present:

Cabinet Members:

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| Councillors | Izzi Seccombe OBE | Leader of Council and Chair of Cabinet |
| | Peter Butlin | Deputy Leader (Finance and Property) |
| | Les Caborn | Adult Social Care & Health |
| | Jeff Clarke | Transport & Planning |
| | Andy Crump | Fire & Rescue and Community Safety |
| | Colin Hayfield | Education and Learning |
| | Kam Kaur | Customer & Transformation |
| | Jeff Morgan | Children's Services |
| | Dave Reilly | Environment and Heritage & Culture |

Non-Voting Invitees:

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor Richard Chattaway | Leader of the Labour Group |
| Councillor Jerry Roodhouse | Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group |

Other Councillors:

Councillors Adkins, Boad, N. Davies, Falp, Fradgley, Gifford, Golby, Kondakor, Olnor, Phillips, Webb

Public attendance:

Two

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Councillor Wallace Redford gave his apologies as he was on Council business in his role as Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Regarding agenda item 4, Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2019/20 and Approval of Statutory Proposals, Councillor Judy Falp declared an interest as a governor of Champion School, Leamington.

Regarding agenda item 6, On Street Parking Pricing Review and Changes to Virtual Permitting Scheme, Councillor Bill Gifford declared an interest on the grounds that his wife has a parking permit.

Regarding agenda item 6, On Street Parking Pricing Review and Changes to Virtual Permitting Scheme, Councillor Sarah Boad declared an interest as a member of the Leamington Spa BID.

Regarding agenda item 10, Building Acquisition, Nuneaton Councillor Keith Kondakor and Clare Golby declared an interest as members of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. Both left the meeting for this item.

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2019 and Matters Arising

The minutes for the meeting held on 7 March 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(4) Public Speaking

None

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet) welcomed new senior members of staff. These were:

Rob Powell – Strategic Director, Resources
Kieran Amos – Chief Fire Officer
Ian Budd – Assistant Director, Education Services
Scott Tompkins – Assistant Director, Environment Services

Also welcomed was Katie Stevens, a first year law student on work experience with the Council.

2. 2019-20 Service Estimates

Councillor Peter Butlin (Deputy Leader, Finance and Property) introduced this report explaining that the Service Estimates report was produced every year following on from the Council's annual budget setting in February. The purpose of this report is to set out in detail how the budget is to be used.

Councillor Peter Butlin highlighted the met revenue spend of £303.614m, savings as set out in the savings plan of £14.221m and expected capital spend of £230.633m. Expenditure and savings will be reported as part of the quarterly performance reporting process.

Councillor Richard Chattaway (Leader of the Labour Group) stated that he had no issues with the report or estimates but asked that Overview and Scrutiny Committees continue to review financial performance.

Councillor Keith Kondakor referring to the table at page A3 of 3 highlighted unallocated education capital of £32.216m. This along with the monies set aside for major road schemes such as Stanks Island, Warwick was money that has been set aside for projects that are unlikely to happen in the 2019/20 financial year. In response to this Cabinet was informed that there is a distinction to be made between allocation and delivery. Delivery programmes need to be managed realistically with the resource being available when required.

In response to a statement by Councillor Bill Olnor the meeting was informed that there is a distinction between "savings" (which refer to money) and "cuts" which refer to services.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approve the detailed revenue budget, savings plan and capital programme for each of the authority's services, as set out in Appendices A to M of the report; and
- 2) Approve the adjustments to service budgets as a result of the realignment of budgets within and between directorates since the budget was set on 7 February 2019, as outlined in section 3 and Appendix N of the report.

3. Council Investment Funds – Criteria for the Allocation of Resources

Councillor Peter Butlin explained the basis of the published report adding that it is essential to ensure that resources available to the Council are used appropriately.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 2.4 of the report and to an addition made to it following publication. This addition served to delegate authority for smaller projects up to a value of £20,000 to the Chief Executive, subject to a cumulative annual value of £150,000 for all small schemes.

Councillor Richard Chattaway agreed with the proposals but asked that where bids are unsuccessful, these along with the reasons behind their failure be reported to Group Leaders. This was agreed. Councillor Keith Kondakor asked that all efforts be made to regard dissimilar projects equally. In addition, the need to ensure that communities are engaged with as part of the process was noted as was the requirement to ensure that difficult to help areas receive the same level of attention as those that are considered easy. Councillor Peter Butlin agreed with these points adding that managers will be required to communicate with communities at an early stage in the process.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Taking account of the revisions to paragraph 2.4 concerning smaller projects, agree the arrangements for the operation of the Early Intervention, Prevention & Community Capacity Fund, as detailed in section 2 of the report;
- 2) Agree the arrangements for the operation of the Children's Transformation Fund, as detailed in section 3 of the report; and
- 3) Agree the updated arrangements for the operation of the Capital Investment Fund, as detailed in section 4 of the report.

4. Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2019-20 and Approval of Statutory Proposals

Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning) introduced the report.

Councillor Keith Kondakor, noting commitments of £16m but a budget of £32m asked that the remaining funds be allocated also. Cabinet was reminded that the

school population is aging and that the requirement for secondary provision will soon increase. In response Cabinet was informed that the Council has a forward plan that provides an indication of where and when pressures will arise.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

- 1) Agrees to change the age range of Newdigate Primary and Nursery from 3-11 to 4-11 from September 2019, as outlined in section 4 of the report;
- 2) Approves the addition of £1,920,000 to the capital programme to deliver the schemes outlined in section 3 of the report; and
- 3) Authorises, subject to the approval of recommendation 2, the Strategic Director for Communities to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources, or (where the scheme is school-led) to make the necessary funding arrangements for these schemes.

5. SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019-2023

Having spoken to members of the public who had attended the meeting, Councillor Izzi Seccombe expressed her support for their concerns over funding of high needs services. Councillor Seccombe added that Warwickshire is not unique in seeing a significant increase in demand for services. Extensive lobbying of government has been undertaken by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the County Council's Network with the LGA leadership Board discussing the matter at every meeting.

Councillor Alan Webb whilst welcoming the strategy noted that it may be difficult to implement.

Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) raised a series of points. He stated that it would be interesting to understand the impact of additional funding provided by government in 2018. Referencing para. 3.3 of agenda item 2 he asked for a briefing on how the transfer of £6.648m will unfold. Regarding the action plan and measures for success contained therein a request was made to see the baseline starting point for these.

Making reference to para 3.6 of the report Councillor Jerry Roodhouse requested that a graphic be produced that illustrates the link between the various strategies that have been produced and are being used by partner agencies.

Finally, regarding the need to lobby for greater support, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse suggested that members from all parties sit down to develop a strategy on how this can be done. The views of the Council could be fed into the government's spending review.

In response to a question from Councillor Helen Adkins, Cabinet was informed of the extent of lobbying. Councillor Izzi Seccombe assured members that she and the Council would persist with lobbying for more support.

Councillor Bill Olnier observed that it would not be appropriate simply for government to grant permission to councils to add a levy on Council Tax to pay for any shortfall in funding.

In response to members' comments, Councillor Colin Hayfield stated that the administration has increased funding for SEND budgets. He added that he looked forward to the outcome of the government's spending review but noted that flexibility on how resources were used locally has been limited by academisation of schools.

Resolved

That Cabinet approves the Warwickshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019-2023.

6. On Street Parking Pricing Review and Changes to Virtual Permitting Scheme

Councillor Jeff Clarke (Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning) summarised the published report. A change was proposed to the table under para 3.3 (Page 5 of 11). Regarding visitor parking permits it was suggested that the charge for up to a maximum of 50 visits should be reduced from the proposed £75 to £50.

Councillor Sarah Boad, having declared an interest as a member of the Leamington BID expressed the view that not only should charges remain unchanged but the quality of service should improve. Councillor Boad noted that pressures for car parking in Leamington were increasing and that this was having a negative impact on the viability of the town centre. Ticket machines, she noted, are largely obsolete and many are frequently out of service. Finally, it was noted that little consultation on the proposals as set out in the report had been undertaken with stakeholders notably the Chambers of Commerce or BIDs.

Councillor Nicola Davies expressed reservations around the lack of consultation on the proposals noting that it is expected to introduce the proposed arrangements as soon as August 2019. Regarding older people, Councillor Davies considered that a cap on the number of visitor permits would be unreasonable. It would not take long, she added for the cap to be reached. In addition, it would be unreasonable, she felt for older people to be expected to go on line and register for additional permits for visitors who may only stay 15 or 20 minutes.

Councillor Bill Gifford referenced a car parking group that, 10 years previously, had undertaken a very detailed consultation exercise. He observed that car parking is complex and agreed that wider consultation should be undertaken before any decisions are made.

Councillor Jenny Fradgley asked that bed and breakfast businesses be consulted on any proposals. This was agreed.

Councillor Alan Webb noted that in Rugby the use of visitor parking permits is sometimes abused by people using the railway station. This leads to additional pressures for on street parking.

Councillor Peter Butlin explained that the accepted model is that on street parking should be more expensive than off street parking. This encourages people into car parks, freeing up spaces for short term callers and reducing the impact on air

pollution as it avoids motorists having to drive around looking for parking spaces. Councillor Peter Butlin reminded Cabinet that charges had not been increased for 6 years and that the net effect of this may be a significant increase.

Councillor Keith Kondakor requested that the number of cycle stands be increased in town centres.

In closing Councillor Jeff Clarke agreed to look into the situation in Leamington regarding the ticket machines. He moved that any decision be deferred pending the outcome of further consultation and that the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider the issue.

Resolved

That:

- 1) Any decisions concerning on street parking pricing and changes to a virtual permitting scheme be deferred pending the outcome of consultation with Chambers of Commerce, BIDs and other stakeholders and,
- 2) The Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider and comment on proposals as set out in the report.

7. Building Acquisition Nuneaton

Councillor Izzi Seccombe introduced the report explaining the need for the County Council to do whatever it can to assist in the regeneration of Nuneaton town centre.

The proposals were widely welcomed by members.

A series of revised recommendations were tabled and accepted.

Resolved

That That Cabinet approves in principle:

- (1) The contribution by the County Council of £1,500,000 from the Capital Investment Fund to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) to support the acquisition by NBBC of the Co-operative Building, Nuneaton (shown edged with a black line on the Plan attached to the report as Appendix A) as part of the Transforming Nuneaton Programme; and
- (2) The addition of the scheme to the County Council's 2019/20 Capital Programme.

The above being subject to the Strategic Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader, being able to negotiate commercial terms, with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, which provide appropriate financial assurance to the Council and secure the Council's investment.

8. Any Urgent Items

None

9. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

Resolved

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the items mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXEMPT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE (PURPLE PAPERS)

10. Building Acquisition Nuneaton

Councillors Keith Kondakor and Clare Golby absented themselves for this item.

Cabinet discussed further the acquisition of the Co-operative building in Nuneaton. No further resolution was agreed beyond that at agenda item 7. Detail of the discussion can be found in the exempt minutes.

The meeting rose at 15.12.

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Chair